

**Minutes**  
**Conservation Commission Regular Meeting**  
**September 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Room 209, Town Hall, 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair J. Bronn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chair J. Bronn, M. Carmody, T. Cappiello, and Alternate Member A. Schutte-Bell

**Also Present:** Conservation Director A. Dew

**Absent:** Vice Chair J. Blick, Member C. DePoi, Alternate Members M. Dew and R. Blessey, and Ex Officio S. Slater

All Members will be voting members tonight.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

- **August 4, 2021** - T. Cappiello noted that the discussion with Jeff Neary was not only about Burr Farm, but also about Williams Park as well. The second paragraph of those minutes pertain to Williams Park. Chair J. Bronn said the road being discussed was Muir Wood.

**Chair J. Bronn made a motion to approve the minutes from August 4, 2021, with the corrections noted. Alternate Member A. Schutte-Bell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**3. Guest and Public Comment**

**4. Correspondence**

Chair J. Bronn discussed correspondence received from Geordi Elkins, Operations Director at Highstead, on August 20<sup>th</sup>. He read the correspondence aloud for the record. The correspondence discussed Happy Landings, the iris seed, questions regarding mowing schedule, and noted a patch of purple milkweed. G. Elkins offered to do a full survey of the property next June.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Chair J. Bronn discussed the budget, noting the budget currently stands at \$10,565. Conservation Director A. Dew noted approximately \$500 is being moved for Recording Secretary salary into the Land Use budget to be combined with the whole recording secretary budget, for simplicity purposes.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Barn Quilt Next Steps**

Chair J. Bronn said he did purchase the PVC sheets and they are in the garage at the Nature Center. He said they still need to be primed. Chair J. Bronn said he thinks the challenge with this project is that they are all relying on one person and he is wondering if there is more the Conservation Commission could take on. He discussed ideas of how the Commission could help once they have the design finalized and a supply list. Chair J. Bronn will talk with C. DePoi and S. Bailey regarding this topic. A. Schutte-Bell noted they have still not discussed the flowers at Eriksen, and they will need to revisit that in order to choose a flower for the design to pass on to B. O'Hara.

**B. Gurski Driveway Paving**

No update.

**C. Nabby Road Maintenance**

T. Capiello said he is waiting for P. McPadden to get back to him with an estimate.

**D. 43 Old Bridge Potential Land Donation**

Conservation Director A. Dew said this topic is up for discussion by the First Selectman at their next meeting on September 13, 2021.

**E. September 11 Trails Day Event**

Chair J. Bronn said he met with A. Schutte-Bell and they have a list of vendors for the event and a map for the table locations. M. Carmody will contact S. Bailey to discuss having a table at the event to discuss barn quilts. Chair J. Bronn said they did not get the coverage in the Brookfield magazine that he was hoping for this event. A. Schutte Bell said she is posting information about the event on social media and will send information to the Brookfield Gazette as well. Chair J. Bronn discussed the tables that are available for use at the event. A. Schutte-Bell discussed the possibility of a bird walk at the event, but it may not happen due to the person's availability. Conservation Director A. Dew said the Commission cannot compensate anyone for their contributions, but if there were supplies needed, the Town could pay for the supplies. Chair J. Bronn said they will have their own table there and the trail guys will be there with some information. A. Schutte-Bell said when Chair J. Bronn gets her the map she will email to all the vendors and Commission members. A. Schutte-Bell said the list of vendors includes, Audubon Society, Pollinators, Bee Keeper Association, Conservation Commission, Lions Club, Protect Our Pollinators, Still River Ad-Hoc. Conservation Director A. Dew will send Chair J. Bronn contact information for Housatonic Valley Association.

**7. New Business****A. Gurski Homestead Improvements**

M. Carmody said she thinks something needs to be done but doesn't know who has the authority to do anything. Chair J. Bronn said he did go there and take pictures. He said there are broken windows, and there is a circular hole in one window. M. Carmody said the place is in shambles. Conservation Director A. Dew said the Conservation Commission is in charge of this property and they will need to get money from the Town in order to fix it up. She said she is not sure which of the buildings are historic, so they should check with the Historic Commission. A. Schutte-Bell said she can reach out to Jackie Salame from the Historic Commission. The Commission discussed what needs to be fixed, and to what level they would like to fix it. They also discussed what could be done with it, after being fixed. Conservation Director A. Dew said a study was done, she believes by the CT Historic Preservation, and she can forward a copy of the study to the Commissioners.

**B. Williams Park Maintenance**

A. Schutte-Bell said her husband will repair boards around the pond, and will let them know what materials he will need. Chair J. Bronn said her husband will need to sign a hold harmless agreement, and the Commission can purchase the materials.

**C. Mowing Schedule**

Chair J. Bronn said they will have Eriksen and Happy Landings mowed after this month. He said he knows Bobby Fisher does Eriksen and the Town had been doing Happy Landings. Conservation Director said she doesn't know if it can be mowed or brush hogged as many woody shrubs and invasives have grown in at Happy Landings, they might have to consider it an emerging forest and let it go. She said she will ask if it can be mowed this year.

**8. Tabled Items****9. New Items**

- M. Carmody discussed the bench and tree at the Nature Center. She said she was there with Chair J. Bronn and Conservation Director A. Dew for a Remembrance Ceremony for Stephanie Landis.
- Conservation Director A. Dew said she sent the leases for the Nature Center and Gurski to the First Selectman for approval. She also mentioned the septic systems have been cleaned at Gurski, Nature Center and Eriksen.
- A. Schutte-Bell said she reached out to NOFA regarding the knapweed issue and left messages. She said she has not received a response.

## **10. Adjournment**

**Chair J. Bronn made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. T. Cappiello seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**